The

Navy League

OF CANADA

Southern Saskatchewan Division (1943)



OBJECTS OF THE LEAGUE

- Education in matters pertaining to the Navy and Mercantile Marine.
- The relief of distressed seamen and their families.
- The support of sailors' homes and institutes.
- The training of Sea Cadets for service in our Mercantile Marine and for good citizenship.

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The Work of the Navy League

The Navy League of Canada, which has been in existence for more than a quarter of a century, is the organization recognized by the Government and the citizens of Canada as being responsible for the welfare of the men of the sea. A great enlargement in the work of the Navy League has, of course, taken place since the commencement of the war, with many new services being undertaken, all at the request of those Officers in command of Naval and Merchant Seaman operations. Operating under a Dominion of Canada charter, the Navy League is also responsible for:

 Educational campaigns throughout Canada in matters pertaining to the Navy and the Merchant Navy.

(2) The relief and assistance of British and Canadian sailors and Allied Merchant Seamen.

(3) The encouragement and organizing of volunteers for Naval Services through Sea Cadets.

(4) The collection of money and goods in kind consisting of comforts of various kinds, all with a view to carrying on the responsibilities of Canada

to the fighting men of the sea.

The Navy League of Canada operates at Halifax one of the largest hostels in the Dominion which is, by the way, their largest project. This is an Allied Merchant Seaman's Club where many thousands of men are cared for each day. Approximately six thousand men of the sea use these dormitories each month, and approximately twenty thousand meals are served monthly. The services of this hostel include dormitories, reading, writing, lounge and game rooms and canteen, and a modern, up-to-date hospital which is manned with voluntary medical and nursing assistance.

Also at Halifax is a recreational centre for sailors, soldiers and airmen. It includes large athletic grounds with facilities for all outdoor games and sports, a large clubhouse with showers, dressing rooms, dry canteen, lounge, etc.

Also just recently the Navy League of Canada purchased an artificial ice rink for the use of the men of the Navy and the Merchant Marine and already more than two hundred hockey teams comprised of men of the sea have used its facilities this year.

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The Navy League of Canada has also purchased and set in complete operation large hostels and recreational centres at Lunenberg, N.S.; Sydney, N.S.; Pictou, N.S.; Digby, N.S.; Gaspé, Que.; St. John, N.B.; Three Rivers, Que.; Montreal, Que.; and at Vancouver and Victoria, B.C. These hostels and recreational centres are some of the largest projects undertaken and financed by the Navy League of Canada, and their value is measured by the appreciation shown by the Navy men

and the Merchant Marine. Another of the greatest services of the Navy League is the receiving of, and caring for, survivors as they come into our ocean ports, specially so due to the U-boat menace in the Atlantic. Many thousands have been so received and it would be possible to enlarge at great length upon the excellence of this service. Testimonials have been received from the highest ranking officials of our own and other countries. Clothing, comforts and medical supplies have been provided to these survivors. No matter what time of day these unfortunate survivors reach ports, ambulances and hospital staffs are on hand to receive them. Doctors and nurses from the St. John's Ambulance Brigade furnish excellent relief and welfare. All comforts and the welfare, etc., of these survivors are the responsibility of the Navy League, and under this heading the Navy League provides survivors' bundles, kits, ditty bags, and many other amenities of life.

Another important function of the Navy League is the providing of comforts and welfare, particularly to Merchant Seamen. The Navy League of Canada, at their various ocean ports, is the recognized distributing agency to Allied

Merchant Seamen.

Full co-operation is extended to, and received from, such organizations as the Red Cross, I.O.D.E. and many other true-blue organizations in Canada.

Last year the Navy League supplied to the Merchant Marine and the Navy:

10 million cigarettes 100,000 ditty bags 2^{1} 2 million magazines 500,000 knitted garments 50,000 packs of playing cards.

Canadian Navy has now 500 ships with 55,000 men and has taken care of 45% of the Battle of the Atlantic.

THE LADIES' AUXILIARY TO THE NAVY LEAGUE OF CANADA

Southern Saskatchewan Division

A Ladies' Auxiliary was set up for the purpose of enlisting the co-operation and support of various women's organizations in the city of Regina and other Southern Saskatchewan points that are now engaged in war work and charitable activities. This body is headed by Mrs. W. M. Logan as President. Associated with her on the Executive Committee is a group of ladies who are actively connected with other women's organizations in Southern Saskatchewan. These ladies are doing excellent work, and their assistance to our Executive is invaluable, particularly in respect to handling the distribution of wool to knitting groups, collecting and shipping the finished knitted goods, maintaining proper records of this work, and assisting the Executive Committee of the League in the raising of funds.

In effect, the Navy League Ladies' Auxiliary to the Southern Saskatchewan Division now have some twenty-five hundred ladies directly or indirectly supporting the activities of the Navy League of Canada, and obtaining this widespread interest in Navy League work amongst so many adds immeasurably to the strength of the Southern Saskatchewan Division of the Navy League

of Canada.

Already many thousands of knitted articles, quilts, ditty bags and survivors' clothing have been shipped to Canada's seaports, and many thousands more will be needed this year.

SEA CADETS

What Are Sea Cadets?

The Sea Cadet Corps is the junior branch of the Naval Service, and is growing in strength daily in every part of Canada. Sea cadets are the sailors of tomorrow's Navy, and no finer recruiting material is available to the Senior Service. Trained in seafaring environment, these lads become accustomed to life on the ocean waves long before they reach predestined Eastern and Western Canadian ports, having been given their initial training under conditions most practical for developing sea-legs.

The recent statement by Navy Minister Macdonald that "Sea Cadet strength should be increased three-fold" is evidence of their value today.

In Regina the Sea Cadet Corps is known as the "IMPREGNABLE". The Regina Sea Cadet Corps "IMPREGNABLE" was formed in July, 1942, and at the close of 1942 the Corps had been expanded to a strength of seven Officers, one Chief Petty Officer, one Petty Officer, three Leading Cadets, twenty-four members of the band, and one hundred and thirty-seven ratings, making a total of one hundred and seventy-three. All training takes place on the H.M.C.S. "QUEEN", which has been made available to the Regina Sea Cadet Corps two nights per week. The H.M.C.S. "QUEEN", by the way, is the farthest inland commissioned ship in the world and has the added distinction of being the first Prairie Division having its ship

company living aboard.

The training of the Regina Sea Cadets is directly under the command of Lieutenant Commander N. L. Pickersgill, Officer Commanding H.M.C.S. "QUEEN". Commander Pickersgill is a Reginan who saw service during the last war with the Royal Canadian Navy and who joined up again with the Royal Navy as a Lieutenant Commander in this war. As Commander of an anti-submarine trawler during the present war, Lieutenant Commander Pickersgill has some vivid war stories to tell. He was on the receiving end of plane and submarine attacks by both Japanese and Germans. He saw most of his action while on a 30,000-mile voyage from Britain to Colombo, Ceylon and return. The Commander is 41 years old and has done a most worthy job of bringing along the Sea Cadet Corps "IMPREGNABLE".
This year our goal will be toward increased

efficiency, and the building to a minimum Corps of at least two hundred and fifty Officers and

Sea Cadets.

Sea Cadet Corps, Moose Jaw

A Sea Cadet Corps was also established by the Southern Saskatchewan Division at Moose Jaw, November 7th of last year. This unit is known as the Sea Cadet Corps "ROBIN HOOD". The Officer Commanding is Lieutenant R. Herrod, who has had experiences both in the Royal Navy and the Royal Canadian Navy. The Sea Cadet Corps "ROBIN HOOD" has a full complement of officers and to date has a total of 87 ratings. The organization of this Corps has progressed very favorably and it is expected that by the end of 1943 the "ROBIN HOOD" will have a crew of at least 150 officers and ratings. The "ROBIN HOOD" Corps parades on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, when drill is taught and various classes held in seamanship.

Sea Cadets Summer Camp

The Sea Cadets summer camp is held on Shepley Island in Saskatoon for all those Sea Cadets who wish to take advantage of this excellent outing. This service is provided with no cost to the boys, all expenses being paid by the Department of National Defence, Naval Service.

This year's objective for the summer camp is eight hundred Sea Cadets from Regina, Saskatoon, Moose Jaw, Prince Albert and North Battleford.

MAGAZINE COLLECTION

A very important function of the Navy League is the gathering of books and magazines to be sent as reading material for the men of the Navy and the Merchant Marine.

Your support is urgently sought in this grand work. Be sure to do your part by saving your magazines and sending them to the Navy League Magazine Depots, conveniently located in your city.

HERE ARE FOUR WAYS YOU CAN HELP THE NAVY LEAGUE

- (1) By your financial assistance to this worthy cause. All donations, large or small, would be gratefully received.
- (2) By knitting or supplying the various woolen garments, etc., needed by the men of the sea.
- (3) By sending your magazines to the Navy League Magazine Depots.
- (4) By constantly being a Navy League booster.

Remember, Canada's fighting navy and the gallant men of the Merchant Marine deserve your support!

TWO DOLLARS BUYS A MEMBERSHIP.